



Amcor PET Packaging Gains Innovation with ORBIS

Packaging Application:

Amcor PET Packaging is a global manufacturer of PET pre-forms and bottles used for beverage and consumer packaged goods. At their Gresford, Wrexham facility, Amcor manufactures over 2.6 billion preforms a year. Of these, 1.0 billion are blow-molded to create bottles on-site, for customers like GSK, Robinsons and Unilever. The other 1.6 billion preforms are shipped to customers like Coca, Cola, AG Barrs and Britvic.

Packaging Challenge:

To store and and move preforms, Amcor used “bag and frame” systems and gayloads. The “bag and frame” systems required frequent manual intervention, often obstructed automated equipment and did not offer high cube efficiency. And, gayloads lasted only three trips before damage occurred.

Packaging Solution:

To improve manufacturing efficiencies and speed production, Amcor teamed with ORBIS. After analyzing the operation and product flow, ORBIS developed a new product, the DropBox, a 1200mm x 1000mm self-discharging bulk container that handles up to 700 kgs. It can be stacked 5 high and holds up to 22,000 preforms. The all-plastic, 100% recyclable DropBox was designed to be moved with a forklift, from static storage to custom racks on the production floor, and emptied in two steps. The innovative release mechanism is effortlessly released by the forklift operator without leaving the truck, allowing pre-forms to flow easily into the hopper below.

Results:

- 25% greater internal volume capacity
- Improved interface with material handling equipment
- Reduced cycle time - minimal manual intervention
- Improved transportation efficiency - 25% more available internal volume means fewer loads
- Improved hygiene - elimination of manual intervention reduces risk of contamination
- Improved safety - no manual intervention
- Reduced packaging costs - through reusability
- Consistent tare weight enables weight control of product
- 20-25% increase in warehouse space utilization

